

REMARKS

Claims 11-23 are pending. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Examiner has rejected claims 11, 15-17, and 21-23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable anticipated by JP 2-87472 (JP '472). In addition, claims 12-14, 18-20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '472 and further in view of various prior patent references.

With respect, it is submitted that each of the independent claims (11 and 15) are not obvious in light of JP '472.

Applicant hereby presents the declaration of the inventor under 37 CFR 1.132. In essence, Dr. Tang declares that JP '472 teaches away from the limitations found in claims 11 and 15 and one skilled in the art would not be led the claimed invention in this case, on the basis of JP '472.

In particular, both claims 11 and 15 claim discrete polygonal shapes having parallel edges, which are separated by uniform gaps. These polygonal shapes are tightly packed as a result of their configuration. As indicated by Dr. Tang, such tight packing is not taught or suggested by JP '472. In the JP '472 reference, the electrode dots or lines (not polygonal shapes as recognized by the Examiner) are widely dispersed to permit adequate gas diffusion. In the present invention, gas diffusion is accomplished by using porous electrode material and not by providing significant gaps between the polygonal electrode elements.

All remaining claims depend from claims 11 or 15, and are therefore submitted to be patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is

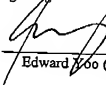
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in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

1. Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132
2. Petition for 2-month Extension
3. Credit Card Payment Form.